

**Senate File 2142 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2142  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2001)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to voter registration and voting by lowering  
2 the age at which a person may register to vote and the age  
3 at which a registered voter is eligible to vote in a primary  
4 election.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 48A.5, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code  
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. (1) Be at least eighteen years of age. However,  
4 for purposes of voting in a primary election, an eligible  
5 elector shall be at least eighteen years of age on the date  
6 of the general election. Completed registration forms shall  
7 be accepted from registrants who are at least seventeen ~~and~~  
8 ~~one-half~~ years of age; ~~however,~~. For an election other than a  
9 primary election, the registration shall not be effective until  
10 the registrant reaches the age of eighteen. The commissioner  
11 of registration shall ensure that the birth date shown on the  
12 registration form is at least seventeen ~~and one-half~~ years  
13 earlier than the date the registration is processed.

14 (2) A registrant who is at least seventeen ~~and one-half~~  
15 years of age and who will be eighteen by the date of a pending  
16 election is a registered voter for the pending election for  
17 purposes of chapter 53. For purposes of voting in a primary  
18 election under chapter 53, a registrant who will be at least  
19 eighteen years of age by the date of the general election is a  
20 registered voter for the pending primary election.

21 Sec. 2. Section 48A.11, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 3. The following questions and statement regarding  
24 eligibility shall be included on forms that may be used for  
25 registration by mail:

26 [1] "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"

27 [2] "Will you be eighteen years of age on or before election  
28 day?"

29 [3] "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these  
30 questions, do not complete this form. However, for purposes  
31 of voting in a primary election, you may complete this form if  
32 you are a citizen of the United States of America and you will  
33 be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the general  
34 election."

35 Sec. 3. Section 48A.14, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code

1 2016, is amended to read as follows:

2     **b.** The challenged registrant is less than seventeen ~~and~~  
3 ~~one-half~~ years of age.

4     Sec. 4. Section 48A.23, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6     1. At least twice during each school year, the board of  
7 directors of each school district operating a high school and  
8 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school  
9 shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student  
10 who is at least seventeen ~~and one-half~~ years of age.

11     Sec. 5. Section 48A.26, subsection 9, Code 2016, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13     9. When a person who is at least seventeen ~~and one-half~~  
14 years of age but less than eighteen years of age registers  
15 to vote, the commissioner shall maintain a record of the  
16 registration so as to clearly indicate that it will not take  
17 effect until the registrant's eighteenth birthday and that the  
18 person is registered and qualifies to vote at any election  
19 held on or after that date. However, for purposes of voting  
20 in a primary election, the registration shall take effect  
21 immediately if the person will be at least eighteen years of  
22 age on the date of the general election.

23     Sec. 6. Section 48A.31, Code 2016, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25     **48A.31 Deceased persons record.**

26     The state registrar of vital statistics shall transmit  
27 or cause to be transmitted to the state registrar of voters,  
28 once each calendar quarter, a certified list of all persons  
29 seventeen ~~and one-half~~ years of age and older in the state  
30 whose deaths have been reported to the bureau of vital records  
31 of the Iowa department of public health since the previous list  
32 of decedents was certified to the state registrar of voters.  
33 The list shall be submitted according to the specifications  
34 of the state registrar of voters. The commissioner shall, in  
35 the month following the end of a calendar quarter, run the

1 statewide voter registration system's matching program to  
2 determine whether a listed decedent was registered to vote in  
3 the county and shall immediately cancel the registration of any  
4 person named on the list of decedents.

5 Sec. 7. Section 49.79, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code 2016,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 b. The For an election other than a primary election, the  
8 challenged person is less than eighteen years of age as of the  
9 date of the election at which the person is offering to vote.  
10 For a primary election, the challenged person will be less than  
11 eighteen years of age on the date of the general election.

12 Sec. 8. Section 49.81, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2016,  
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 a. (1) The individual envelopes used for each provisional  
15 ballot cast pursuant to subsection 1 shall have space for the  
16 voter's name, date of birth, and address and shall have printed  
17 on them the following:

18 I am a United States citizen, at least eighteen years of age  
19 or, for purposes of voting in the primary election, I will  
20 be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the general  
21 election. I believe I am a registered voter of this county and  
22 I am eligible to vote in this election.

23 .....

24 (signature of voter) (date)

25 (2) The following information is to be provided by the  
26 precinct election official:

27 Reason for casting provisional ballot:

28 .....

29 .....

30

.....

31

(signature of precinct

32

election official)

33 Sec. 9. Section 280.9A, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended  
34 to read as follows:

35 3. At least twice during each school year, the board of

1 directors of each local public school district operating a  
2 high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited  
3 nonpublic school operating a high school shall offer the  
4 opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least  
5 seventeen ~~and one-half~~ years of age, as required by section  
6 48A.23.

7 Sec. 10. Section 602.8102, subsection 15, Code 2016, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 15. Monthly, notify the county commissioner of registration  
10 and the state registrar of voters of persons seventeen ~~and~~  
11 ~~one-half~~ years of age and older who have been convicted of a  
12 felony during the preceding calendar month or persons who at  
13 any time during the preceding calendar month have been legally  
14 declared to be a person who is incompetent to vote as that term  
15 is defined in [section 48A.2](#).

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill relates to voting and voter registration.

20 Current law allows an eligible elector who is at least 17  
21 and one-half years of age to register to vote, but, except  
22 for purposes of requesting and voting an absentee ballot, the  
23 registration does not become effective until the registrant  
24 turns 18 years of age. The bill allows a registered voter  
25 who is not 18 years of age to vote in a primary election if  
26 the voter will be at least 18 years of age on the date of the  
27 general election. The bill also allows an eligible elector to  
28 register to vote at 17 years of age.